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Rural to Urban Migration

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Oral Presentation O11.2

RURAL TO URBAN MIGRATION

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The purpose of this research was to shed light on the migration patterns and practices of migrant workers from rural India now residing in urban India (city of Pune, in the state of Maharashtra). It is critical to understand how migration looks from the perspectives of the migrants if one wants to understand India today. This project was feasible due to the large numbers of migrant workers residing in Pune. The outer areas of Pune have a high concentration of migrant workers that are building everything from housing complexes to IT parks. The study focused on migrants living in a labor camp attached to the Mount 'n' Glory residential complex of the Sancheti Associates Pvt. Ltd. in Chandannagar, Pune, and the research was conducted through interviews. It was hypothesized that migrants would be happy about migrating if their individual standards of living have improved, but if they have not, they would also view their migration positively if they have been able to send money back home; if neither of the two were met, then they would view their migration negatively. This research discovered that migrants in this area came primarily from Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra. The main reason for migrating was to secure a job, and this was also the main expectation of migration. Migrants fell into two categories of migration: circular (migration meant to meet a specific need, such as paying for medical treatment) and rotational (migration meant to support the home and/or home economy). Rotational migrants sent more money back to the rural areas, with the average being Rs. 3458 monthly. Many of the migrants indicated that this money goes directly back into agriculture. While many migrants believe their lives are better as a result of their increased income, many also believe that their social network/social capital has greatly reduced as a result of their migration.